

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14 and 17-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-7, 14 and 17-20 amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claim 29 is provisionally withdrawn by the Examiner as allegedly drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 2, 3, 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in these claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiners Sherman and Awad at the interview held April 16, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, makes an Election of Species Requirement between Species I, drawn to Fig. 3, and Species II, drawn to Fig. 5. Further, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-28 are directed to Fig. 3, and claim 29 is directed to Fig. 5. Because claims 1-28 have already been examined, the Office Action asserts that Species I has been constructively elected. Applicant requests reconsideration of the Election of Species Requirement in light of the following. Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 20-28 are generic to both species. Because these claims have already been examined on the merits, both species have already been examined on the merits. No Election of Species Requirement should, therefore, be made at this point in prosecution of this application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn, and claim 29 be rejoined and examined on the merits. Alternatively, upon finding of any of the above generic claims allowed, claim 29 should be rejoined and allowed as well.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, objects to claims 1, 5, 14 and 18 because the feature "at least one of the first circuit unit and the second circuit unit including a plurality of

transistors connected in series or in parallel," is allegedly not supported by Fig. 3. The Office Action asserts that Fig. 3 discloses only that the plurality of transistors in the first circuit unit are connected in parallel and the plurality of transistors in the second circuit unit are connected in series. The Office Action, therefore, admits that the exemplary embodiment disclosed in Fig. 3 fully supports the feature "at least one of the first circuit unit and the second circuit unit including a plurality of transistors connected in series or in parallel." It is not necessary, in order to satisfy any formal requirement, that every varying embodiment be specifically depicted in a figure. Applicant depicts at least an exemplary embodiment, variations of which are permissible within the scope of the pending claims. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Further, the Office Action objects to claims 1, 5, 14 and 18 because these claims should allegedly be amended to recite "includes" instead of "including." While not conceding the necessity to make such a change, the claims are amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16 and 18-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0200300 to Yumoto. The Office Action, in paragraph 6, rejects claims 2 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,909,242 to Kimura. The Office Action, in paragraph 7, rejects claims 4 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Kimura in view of Yumoto. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 14 recite, among other features, each of the first circuit unit and the second circuit unit having the plurality of transistors having the same driving capability. At least this feature cannot reasonably be considered to be taught, or to have been suggested, by the applied references.

During the April 16 personal interview, Examiner Sherman expressed concern regarding the term "driving capability" being potentially ambiguous. Applicant's disclosure, at least at paragraph [0086], clearly discloses what the term "driving capability" means in the context of Applicant's claims.

Examiner Sherman, in reviewing Applicant's amended claim language during the April 16 personal interview, indicated his belief that perhaps the embodiment described in paragraph [0027] of Yumoto could be combined with the embodiment depicted in Fig. 8 to still potentially render anticipated the subject matter of the pending claims. Applicant's representatives noted that the embodiment of paragraph [0027] teaches a same single TFT used for TFT1, which the Office Action asserts corresponds to the first circuit unit, and for TFT2, which the Office Action asserts corresponds to the second circuit unit. Fig. 8 in Yumoto is apparently relied upon for teaching a plurality of transistors connected in series. It is unclear that these embodiments are even combinable in the manner suggested. Applicant's representatives argued, however, that, even if combined, the combinations of features positively and precisely recited in at least independent claims 1 and 14 are not shown to be taught. No agreement was reached.

Additionally, claims 6 and 19 recite, among other features, the first circuit unit includes a plurality of transistors controlled by a control element whether they are electrically connected in series or electrically connected in parallel. This feature cannot reasonably be considered to be taught, or to have been suggested, by the applied references.

Instead, Yumoto teaches, a current drive circuit capable of supplying an intended current to a light emitting element of a pixel without being affected by variations in characteristics of an active element inside the pixel. This disclosure in Yumoto cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to a feature in which "the first circuit unit includes the

plurality of transistors controlled by a control element whether they are electrically connected in series or electrically connected in parallel," as positively recited in claims 6 and 19.

Kimura is not applied in a manner that would overcome any of the above-identified shortfalls in the application of Yumoto to the combinations of features particularly recited in at least claims 1, 6, 4 and 19.

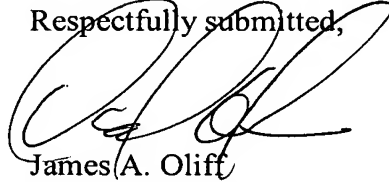
For at least the above reasons, Yumoto, Kimura and/or any permissible combination of these references cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features positively recited in at least independent claims 1, 6, 14 and 19. Further, claims 4, 5, 7-13 and 17-28 would also not have been suggested by the applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the enumerated claims under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-14 and 17-29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DAT

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